

THE GIRL AND THE GAWK

PROPERTY OF WILLARD B. PRICE

DRESS PLOT

JIM. ACT ONE. Common dark pants rough but clean shirt, straw hat.
ACT TWO Same
ACT THREE Same
ACT FOUR Nice long Prince Albert suit but no hat.

COL. ACT ONE Long grey Prince Alber broad brim hat
ACT TWO Swell long P. A suit black
ACT THREE Same
ACT FOUR neat-summerdressesetc-suit Same

BESS ACT ONE Neat summer dresses to suit
ACT TWO same
ACT THREE same
ACT FOUR evening or party dress

ANNIE ACT ONE neat black house maid dress
ACT TWO same
ACT THREE same
ACT FOUR swell evening gown bright color.

JACK ACT ONE neat business suit
ACT TWO same
ACT THREE eveing suit opera hat.
ACT FOUR

PROPS

Three cigars for Jack (can be wood)
box matches on table
Parlor furniture to suit
violin for Jim
Clean gunny sack for him
Tap bell on table
Door bell on table
door bell off R U

lamp to burn
Whiet hankerchief for Jack
Two coins for Col
Two coins for Jack
Book for table
Hall tree up L
Telegram in envelope.

SCENE PLOT

BAY
 WINDOW
 CHAIR
 TABLE
 HALL TREE
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THE GIRL AND THE GAWK

COMEDY DRAMA

BY WILL H. LOCKE.

CAST

ANNIE LAURIE INGENUE
BESSIE SANFORD JUVENILE
COL. STRONG HEAVY
JACK WARRING HEAVY
JIM JONES COMEDY

PLACE: A VILLAGE IN THE SUNNY SOUTH

TIME. THE PRESENT.

(COPYWRITED BY WILL H. LOCKE)

ACT ONE

MUSIC ANNIE LAURIE THEN PAUSE THEN CURTAIN UP BIRD WHISTLES
OFF R AND L AT RISE AND GRADUALLY CEASES)

Col

(heard off R U) No there was Lee right over there sah. (speaks as he enters) It was the greatest and most glorious sight they eyes of mortal man ever beheld, sah! (coming down R C) There was General Lee right over there sah, mounted on his magnificent charger. I brought my regiment around into the open by a flank maneuver and there we were face to face with dern yankies, and before you could say Jack Robinson there was the hottest skirmish that eight hundred fighting devils ever got into. Every man was fighting like a tiger when zip came a minnie ball---

Jack

(he has entered with Col side by side and come down with him interestedly take out cigar and offers to Col) Have a cigar Colonel? Take a smoke.

Col

(stops speaking suddenly takes cigar) Ah thank you Jack thank you Smoke? Why every time I see smoke it reminds me of Gettysburg or Antietam or the battle of the wilderness. Why I can see it just as plain as if it had occurred only yesterday (gets excited) There was Lee right over there sah. The rebels were making a charge down the side of the hill---here was my regiment on the side---up the hill we charged like a furious thunderbolt; I was right in the midst of it; there was no retreating the shells burst over our heads, and the cannon balls sang their song of death and destruction when zip came a minnie ball---

Jack

(takes out another cigar) (offers to Col) Have a smoke, Col?

Col

(stops suddenly) Jack my boy you spend too much money for cigars to keep me smoking (takes cigar puts it in pocket)

Col

Jack, my boy I like you even if you are a Yankee. Your father and I were boys together. Ah those happy days of boyhood, But I was born in the south and your father in the north. But that made no difference to us as boys, not a bit, but the time came when the sounds of war demanded that we chose our colors.

Jack

My father chose the blue---

Col

And I the gray. We fought all through the war, we endured hardships and suffering such as only we old fellows who have smelt the powder and heard the song of the minnieball can understand. We both won distinction and rank

Jack

Yes; politically you were enemies---fighting each other for what you each thought was right; or the cause you each loved---ready to shoot each other for the sake of that cause.

Col

But personally we were friends; every ready to grasp the hand of good fellowship love and truth.

Jack

The hand of a life long friendship colonel

Col

Yes, and now Jack my boy in face of all this I believe I am justified in venturing a bit of advice am I not?

Jack

Certainly Col what is it?

Col

You have been doing a good deal of speculating of late, with the fortune your father left you and I want to warn you it's a treacherous game Jack and I warn you to be cautious

Jack

Cautious? Why, Colonel, caution is one of the infirmities of old age-----and I'm too young for that.

Col

Caution my boy caution is the mighty oak tree that grows from an acorn of experience sah.

Jack

Why, Colonel dealing in wheat is the very essence of life. The thrilling fights with the bulls and the bears! Why it always reminds me of how my father used to tell about the battle of Richmond when there was Grant right over there.

Col

(gets excited same business as before) And there was Lee right over there! And before you could say Jack Robinson there was the hottest skirmish that eight hundred fighting devils ever got into. Every man was fighting like a tiger when zip came a minnie ball.

--Jack-- -2-- Bess

(enters from house L comes C just in time to take the colonels hand as he points L on cue minnieball this is good for laugh) Ah colonel Strong how do you do. (shakes hands with him and crosses to R shakes with Jack) And you too, Mr. Warring.

Col

(removes hat rather confusedly) Delighted to see you Miss Bessie.

Jack

And so am I Miss Bessie.

Bess

(sits center of settee R) Thank you gentlemen, but this is an unexpected pleasure to see you both here (motions them to sit)

Col
(crosses and sits at her R) Yes Miss Bessie, I was just coming ovah on a matter of business when I met Jack and was delighted to have his company. (aside) I wish he was in Jerusalem!

Jack
The colonel and I are great friends (aside) I wish he had stayed at home

Col
This is a lovely evenin' Miss Bessie.

Bess
Yes col it is indeed a delightful evening.

Col
It was just such an evening as this back in the sixties when we heard the low rumbling of trampling feet and the distant boom of the guns and there was Lee right ovah there, when zip came a minnie ball

Jack
Have a smoke, Colonel.

Bess
(laughing) Col how many times are you going to fight those battles over again.

Col
A thousand pardons Miss Bessie. You see we old soldiers live very much in the past.

MUSIC : ANNIE LAURIE FOR ANNIE'S ENTRANCE

Annie
(enter from house stops L C (Miss Bessie!

Bessie
Well, Annie Laurie, what is it?

Annie
I've had trouble with the cook

Bessie
What was the trouble dear?

Ann
I was sweeping the kitchen floor and she said if I a didn't get out of her way, she'd sacald me.

Col
And did you get out of her way?

Ann
Yes sir---right quick

Col
Well, I don't blame you

Ann
I wish you would speak to the cook about scalding me, Miss Bessie.

Bess
I shall reprimand her severely my dear.

Ann
Thank you Miss Bessie (exits in house quietly)

Col
(has been watching Annie) "hat a peculiar child she is.

Bess
Yes and she s a good and innocent as she is peculiar. Poor little thing she is an orphan and I took pity on her and gave her a home.

Col
Ju t like your good kind heart, Miss Bessie.

Jack
(aside) I wish the old fellow would leave (looks at watch) By the way Colonel, didn't I hear you say as we came over that you had promised Major Borne that you would join him at six O'clock for dinner.

Col

Col
(jumps up to king at watch Great Jehosaphat! So I did he's waiting for me right now. Well Miss Bessie, I've had a delightful visit.

Bess
Thank you Colonel

Col
So good evening Miss Bessie (offers hand)

Bess
Good evening Colonel Strong (gives him hand) Come again

Col
Thank you Miss Bessie thank you I will. Good evening Jack Miss Bessie (hat off bows low and exits R U)

Jack
Bess, I am afraid I have a strong rival in colonel strong he is as deeply in love with you as I am (they are looking after the col)

Bess
Oh, Jack, how you talk. Still I must say if it were not for you, I would rather marry the colonel than any other man I know of.

Jack
And be an old man's darling, eh?

Bess
Well, that is the old saying but very often a true one. For there's many a poor woman who is "a young man's slave."

Annie
(enter from house) Miss Bessie)

Bess
Well, Annie Laurie.

Ann
The cook wants to see you a minute.

Bess
Very well tell her I am coming.

Ann
Yes'm (exits in house quietly)

Bess
Now don't go away Jack, stay and take dinner with us.

Jack
All right, thank you. I'll wait out here and enjoy my cigar until you call me (down R sits)

Bess
(going toward house) I won't be long (stops in door turns and throws a kiss or two at Jack and exits in house)

MUSIC ANNIE LAURIE TILL JIM ON

Jim
(enter R U slowly but in time to see her throw kisses carries a sack half filled over his left shoulder, comes down C grins stops looks after Bess) Whenever a gal is in love with a feller she's jest got to kiss him either direct forward 'em by mail or send 'em by the wireless. (takes a kiss from his mouth with his fingers, places it carefully on the toe of his boot and kicks it toward house after Bess)

Jack
(rather sneeringly) You are quite a wit, aren't you?

Jim
(looks around at Jack, grins good naturedly) Ah ha but I can't help it.

Jack
You are the fellow is known about the village as "The Gawk" are you not?

Jim
(pathetically) ah ha but I can't help it.

Jack
What do you do for a living?

Jim
I do most any old thing I can get to do.

Jack
Just pick up odd jobs eh?

Jim
Ah ha and sometimes I get m ney for playin on the fiddle (grins)

Jack
(la ghs) You play on the fiddle

Jim
Ah ha one time I got six dollars for playing on my fiddle.

Jack
How was that?

Jim
Well, you see a feller give me a dollar to go and serenade a girl he was mad at. So I went and stood under window at three o'clock in the mornin' and played on my diddlep and pretty soon her father he come out and give me five dollars to quit.

Jack
(laughs) It must be entrancing music you make. But how did you happen to learn to play n the violin?

Jim
Violin? I don't play on the violin---I play on the fiddle.

Jack
Oh I see---there is a difference isn't there?

Jim
(earnestly) Ah ha (nods)

Jack
(rises laughing crosses to L) Well, whenever you play on your fiddle be sure and go somewhere else and play ---we cannot stand everything. (sizes Jim up laughs and exits in house)

Jim
(stands C, looking after him imitates his laugh) He laughed at me. That's the way they all do---laugh at me. And it hurts--- hurts---(pathetically) way down deep in my heart it hurts. Sometimes I try to keep it from hurtin' by thinkin' maybe they don't mean nothin' by it---but it hurts just the same---and I can't help it (starts to pick up sack) Music annie Laurie for scene)

Annie
(enters from house sees Jim stops bashfully)

Jim
(hold sack in front of him rather surprised at her) How do (grins)
(tips hat awkwardly)

Ann
(timidly) How do?

Jim
I never saw you before little girl---who are you?

Annie
Oh I'm only Annie Laurie.

Jim
Only Annie Laurie.

Ann
Ah ha

Jim
Annie Laurie what?

Annie
Annie Laurie Fairfax

Jim
Annie Laurie Fairfax.

Annie
Ah ha thats all of it.

Jim
Is it?

Annie
Ah ha.

Jim
Well, where did you come from?

Annie
From the farm?

Jim
Fetched up on a farm were you. (starts to pick up sack)

Annie
Ah ha---the poor farm

Jim
(looks at her drop sack sympathetically) Were you?

Annie
Ah ha but we had lots to eat.

Jim
Did you? I'd like to live there. I like to eat---I can't help it.

Annie
We used to have pie every Sunday

Jim
Pie every Sunday? I believe I'll move out there because I like pie---I can't help it. (grins)

Annie
On week I had pie twice (they get friendly)
Jim Pie twice in one week? (she nods) I could stand it six times a week. Did it agree with you?

Annie
Ah ha you see old Granny Oglesby died that week and couldn't eat her pie---so she gave it to me.

Jim
(aside) Poor little girl

Annie
Say who are you?

Jim
Who me? (she nods) Oh I aint nobody but Jim---the rest of my name is Jones---but I can't help it.

Annie
Jim Jones?

Jim
Ah ha, Jim Jones. It aint very pretty, but its good enough for me. But say you haven't told me who brought you here?

Annie
Miss Bessie brought me here to help about the house. I love Miss Bessie---she's so good to me. What's in that sack?

Jim
Turnips (grins) Major Brown sent 'em over.

Ann
I'll take them into the kitchen (starts to take hold of sack)

Jim
Well, you better let me help you carry 'em---Annie Laurie---because they're heavy (each holding sack by corner twisted they start up L Jim up stage from her looking at her grinning) Say, Annie Laurie, I could help you carry turnips forever--because I like you. (they ext above house) and I can't help it. (Last of speech is read after exit and always gets a big laugh)

Col
(enters R U carries big red rose or flowers comes down C) I wanted

that youngster has got more sense than both of us put together---
 come well go down town and spend that quarter---I'm as dry as a fish
 on a tin roof in July (they go up C arm in arm and exit) Now
 there was Lee right ovah there sah. Up the hill we charged (etc and et
 (both exit R U)

MUSIC: Annie Laurie for scene

Annie
 (enter from house goes up C looks off comes down R sits sobs)

Jim
 (enter from above house, sack over shoulder s art off R U stops)
 (sees Annie speaks down behind her, see that she is crying stops
 looks serious takes off hat) Why Annie Laurie, you're a cryin'
 What's that for? (speaks with emotion and sympathy)

Ann
 Because. Because I'm lonesome.

Jim
 Lonesome

Annie
 Ah ha I get so lonesome sometimes I just have to cry---and then I
 feel better. (she has face burried in arpon leaning on back of seat)

Jim
 (wipes eyes on corner of sack) Do you? (smypathetically)

Annie
 Ah ha-

Jim
 Then I'll sit down here by you and keep you company for a little
 while---will that cheer you up any? (sits gingerly on end of seat)

Annie
 Ah ha (good for laugh)

Jim
 Well, I'm glad I'm of so e comfort to somebody ladies don't find
 much comfort in my company--but I can't help it.

Anni
 But I'm no lady.

Jim
 Yes, you are, little girl, yes you are. Way down deep in your heart.
 there's more of the real god given lady than can be found in the whole
 bodies of the average woman of the world. Don't you agree with
 me?

Annie
 (re overs look at him) Ah ha because I think you're a nice man.

Jim
 (grins fumbles with hat awkwardly) Do you? ---well I can't help it.

Annie
 I like nice men

Annie
 Do you? (she nods) Are there many nice men on your list of acquaintance

Ann
 No. you're the only one. (shyly)

Jim
 Well, what makes you think I'm so nice?

Ann
 Oh I know because ---because---because I know.

Jim
 Well, thats a pretty good reasonAnnie Laurie, but I might not be
 as nice as you think.

Ann
 Oh yes you are, because you're kind to me.

Jim
 Jim I? Well I can't help it. Say Ann e Laurie, where -su-ah- are all your kinfolds.

Annie
 (rises going around up C) I---I haven't any

Jim
 (turns with her as she crosses in front of him) Haven't you?

Annie
 (shakes head) NO

Jim
 (saddly) Neither have I.

Ann
 But I don't mind it---I'm used to it.

Jim
 Poor little girl

Ann
 (brightening) But I don't seem to find be so lonesome now that I know you (stands C)

Jim
 (looks at her) Don't you? (she shakes head) Well, then I reckon I'm some good anyhow.

Ann
 (goign over behindsette timidly).Do you---like me?

Jim
 (confused fumbles hat grins) Ah ha---I like you and I can't help it.

Ann
 (babs fly at right end of settee) Then I'm going to call you Jim---may I?

Jim
 Ah ha you just call me Jim because it'll make me feel more at home like. Nobody ever calls me anything but Jim. I couldn't stand to be called Mister Jones So you just call me Jim, and I'll like you all the better for it.

Ann
 (figiting bashfully) What---what makes youlike me---Jim?

Jim
 I like you because---because I can't help it. And I like you because you don't laugh at me and make fun of me like the rest of 'em all do. They all laughat me, and poke fun at me. And it hurts, way down deep in my heart it hurts. Wometimes I try to keep it fromhurting by thinking maybe they don't mean nothin' by it, but it hurts just the same and I can't help it. Awhile ago Mr. Jack Warring was here, and and he laughed at me again--he always laughs at me But he'll laugh at me once too often some day and then I'll forget myself and---(He has his back toward C facing Annie R)

Jack
 (enter R U during Jim's speech stands up C listening)

Bess~
 (enter from house goes up to Jack)

Ann
 (tries to warn Jim motions with finger to lips)

Jack
 (coming down L C looking at Jim and laughing)

Jim
 (hearing Jack laugh, turns quickly in seat rises angrily) and there he is a laughin' at me now! (makes rush at Jack)

Ann
 (runs C between Jim and Jack hold up hand to stop Jim) JIM!

Jim
 (retreats to R backing slowly) You think because I'm poor and ighora

and you're rich and wear good clothes that you're better than I am and you can poke fun at me, don't you? (speaks chokingly)

Bess

(down L C) Jim you go about your business. We do not care to have you create disturbance here. (going to house) Come into the house, Jack. (exits into house)

Jack

(follows her turns in door laughs sneeringly at Jim exits in house)

Jim

(during Bess's speech picks up hat and sack and starts off R L) When Jack laughs, slams down hat and sack and makes rush for Jack)

Ann

(comes C stops Jim pleadingly) Please JIM.

Jim

(stops looks at her) He'll laugh at me once too often someday (stands with left fist raised threateningly toward house) MUSIC "ANNIE Laurie"

CURTAIN

ACT TWO

SCENE SEE SCENE PLOT

LIGHTS FULL UP WHITE.

MUSIC ANNIE LAURIE.

Bessie

(discovered at rise)

Col

(enters R U) Ah good evening Miss Bessie, I am indeed glad to see you (shakes hands) It seems an age since I was here last.

Bess

Yes nearly a week. But you are quite welcome at any time.

Col

I wish to ask you a few questions concerning this little girl Annie Laurie. Have you any knowledge as to her antecedents?

Bess

None whatever I have questioned her about herself and her parents but she avoids all conversation in that direction. The poor child is evidently has a very sad history, and as any reference to it seems to grieve her, I have not had the heart to insist upon her telling me

Col

Ah, you have a kind and loving nature. As Shakespear says---" A woman moved is like a fountaintroubled " (takes her hand)

Bess

Colonel! (looks at him and at hand he is holding)

Col

Ahem---yes. (places hand carefully back whereheefound it) We were speaking of Annie Laurie were we not?

Bess

Yes.

Col

Now I wish to confide to you a chapter from the book of my family history. My only and younger sister married against my father's wishes. The man she married was said be an adventurer who thought to marry a fortune with her. They were married and my father disinherited her. Then they both disappeared and we never heard of them again. For years I have been trying to find her, and the other day I received a communication from my attorney which leads me to think that this little girl is the child of my poor unfortunate sister.

Bess

Can it be possible?

Col

Ah Miss Bessie, this life is a great mystery. We never know what future may hold in store for us. As Shakespeare says---"There are books in running brooks, sermons in the stones, and good in everything" (takes her hand strokes it)

Bess

(same bus as before) Colonel!

Col

Ahem---yes. (replaces her hand as before) Now if you will kindly allow me to question Annie Laurie----

Bess

Certainly I will ring for her (rings bell) But I am afraid you will gain but little information from her (at table R)

Ann

(enter R U*)

Bessie

Annie Laurie, Colonel Strong wishes

to talk to you

Ann

Yes'm (goes over to Col)

Col

(takes both her hand and looks into her eyes) Yes, I can see a wonderful resemblance in those features. She is almost the very image of her. I can look into those eyes and see the little sister I loved so well, as she romped and played in the old home back there in Kentucky. Annie Laurie tell me that you know of your father and mother

Ann

Oh please sir, don't ask me--please don't.

Col

But my child it is for your own good.

Ann

No it can never do any good (sobs) And I'd rather not talk about it. I never had a nice home like other girls---no pretty white dresses or playthings. The only friend I ever had that was like a mother to me was old granny Ogleby. She taught how to read in her bible and to pray now I lay me down to sleep but she was so poor and sick and when she died I didn't have anybody to be good to me until Miss Bessie brought me here that's all sir. (turns and exits sadly R U)

Col

Miss Bessie I feel positive that this is my poor sister's child. Her share of the estate fell to me but I am determined that her child shall be benefitted by it. Now we must secure the proof of her identity.

Bess

(sits R) I shall help you all I can. Colonel.

Col

Thank you, and now that being settled for the time being I wish to (takes her hand) Say as Shakespeare says---

Ann

(enter R U quickly) Oh Miss Bessie, the cook wants to see you

Col

(goes down L quickly) Oh hang that cook!

Bess

Very well 'rises' I'd like to tar and feather that cook.

Bess

(exits R U Annie starts to follow her)

Col

Oh Annie Laurie come here.

Ann

Yes sir (goes over to him)

Col

Annie Laurie, would you like to be a rich young lady? (sits L)

Ann

No sir.

Col

Why not? Most girls would.

Ann

Would they sir?

Col

Yes.. Now see here Annie Laurie, I believe I am your uncle wouldn't you like to have me for an uncle?

Ann

Yes sir. (brightly) I'd like to have you for an uncle and Miss Bessie for an aunt.

Col

(jumps up and runs down R) By jove, I rather approve of that sort of an arrangement myself. (turns to her C) Well Annie Laurie, I think that be-

For long I will have some good news for you.

(goes up to L U gets hat) And I want you to promise me that you will tell Miss Bessie all about yourself will you

Annie

Yes sir.

Col

Then good bye Annie Laurie (exits L U)

Ann

Good bye sir. (goes over to R turns looks after Col) Oh I like Colonel Strong (exit R U)

Jack

(comes from behind screen or in from bay window where he has been hiding listening all during act) What a useful thing a balcony is. When I build my house, I shall have one outside of every room as a convenience as well as an ornament. (looks off R U) So Annie Laurie is suspected of being an heiress eh? What a romance? The beggar maid inherits a fortune. I will keep the matter in mind---it may prove useful to me (sits L)

Annie

(enter R U and starts to cross to L U)

Jack

Hello Annie Laurie, come here a minute will you?

n

Yes sir (going down to him)

Jack

(takes both her hands, looks at her) Annie Laurie, you are a pretty girl and those rosy lips look very tempting. I shve a good mind to kiss you---shall I?

Ann

No sir. (jerks away) Old Granny Oglesby told me never to kiss strangers I might catch the skin disease.

Jack

(laughs) Well, I'll chance it any how (tries to grab her, she avoids him by dodging under his right arm runs L) (He turns tries to catch her again she avoids him and dodges under his arms again runs up R and behind table they see saw around table a time or two she tries to run around table he follows her as she runs up C)

Jim

(enters R U sees them grins Jack comes nearly up to him and goes down quickly) What you all doin' Playin' tag?

Jack

Yes, Annie Laurie and I were just having a little game. (sarley)

Jim

(looks at Annie) Why Annie Laurie, you're a crying again---what's that for?

Annie

Nothing Jim

Jim

(looks at Jack seriously) Say---did you make her cry?

Jack

No.

Jim

Say I don't like you cry well and I can' help it.---what-

Jack

What do you want here?

Jim

I just come over to see Annie Laurie.

Jack

What is Annie Laurie to you?

Jim

(looks at her earnestly) Annie Laurie is all the world to me.

Jack

(laughs) Quite a romantic love affair (crosses to L) Turns) The girl and the Cawk! (looks at Jim laughs and exits L 1)

Jim

(starts Annie stops him) He'll laugh at me once to often some day. (turns to her) He wasn't a trying to harm you was, he Annie Laurie?

Ann

(C) No no Jim he didn't mean any harm.

Jim

Well, I hope not, because I'd hurt the feller that we had harm you Annie Laurie---hurt him bad. (goes up to her, grins) Say, Annie Laurie, (figits bashfully) You---you love me don't you?

Ann

(figits bashfully) Ah ha.

Jim

Say Annie Laurie I just come over to tell you that I've got anew job.

Annie

Oh have you? (joyously)

Jim

Ah ha, I've got a good job now. I'm workin' over to Major Browne's and I'm a getting two dollars a week and myboard---and he lets me sleep in the barn in the night time. I'm goin' to save up all my money and when I get rich some night we'll escape and gby moonlight and git married, won't we?

Annie

(bashfully) Ah ha.

Jim

Honest?

Annie

Say, Annie Laurie, let's seal that bargain. (wipes mouth)

Ann

(puts fingers to lips they both look off R and L then come down C and prepare to kiss)

Bess

(enters L U coughs Jim and Annie jump apart) I came just in time didn't I? (down C laughing)

Jim

(down L) No. You came a little too soon.

Bess

(looks at them and laughs Jim tries to appear unconcerned work it up for laugh) Bu there I won't tease you for I know you love each other sincerely. Jim. (gets his hand pulls him to C) You don't look much like a modern Romeo; but as the whole world loves a lover and being in love myself (gets Annie hands, puts it into Jim's hand then stands behind them with both her arms extended over them as in a blessing speaks with mock solemnnity) I will say---bless you my children, bless you

Ann

Thank you Miss Bessie?

Gess

Well, Jim---what have you to say.

Jim

(looks around as if looking for a place to escape), Who---me? I---I reckon---I'll say good evenin' (make hurried exit L U) (Bess look laughs after him)

Ann

Miss Bessie---

Bess

Well, Annie Laurie?

Ann
 "ou love Mr Warring don't you?

Bess
 Yes (L C)

Ann
 Did he say he loved you honest and true and crossed his heart?

Bess
 Yes I thi k he said all that---or its equivalent.

Ann
 Oh Miss Bessie, I'm so sorry.

Bess
 Sorry---why?

Ann
 Because I don't believe he love s you honest and true---I'm sure he don't.

Bess
 Why Annie Laurie what are you talking about?

Ann
 (very seriously) Oh Miss Bessie, you have been so good to me, and I love you so---I'd do anything for you. I want to prove to you that Mr Warring don't love you as he says he does---will you let me?

Bess
 Why child how serious you are---

Ann
 Well you let me prove it to you, please Miss Bessie?

Bess
 Well, child to humor you and your foolish notion I will say yes.

Annie
 Thank you Miss Bessie thank you.

Bessie
 (going up R U) Poor dear little girl. Her head is full of strange ideas (exit R U)

Ann
 (sits L) Mr Warring don't love her honest and true. If he does, why did he try to kiss me. Now he'll try to kiss me again, and then I'll prove to her that he isn't fair and square. (rises and goes Up C) But I believe Col Strong does love her honest and true.

Jack
 (ente r L i* Hello Annie Laurie, are you still here? (up to her) Annie Laure, do you really love that town clown and gawk, Jim Jones?

Ann
 Yes sir?

Jack
 Why do you love him?

Ann
 Because he is honest and true (exit R U quickly)

Jack
 (laughs goes down sits at table) Because he is honest and true. Poor little fool. But she will get wiser someday. I hope she will come into that fortune. I'm rapidly getting near the end of mine. A few more bad plays like the last and I'll be among the hasbeens.

Bess
 (ente r R U) Ah Jack, Annie Laurie told me that you were. (down to him) I wanted to speak to you about something which Colonel Strong mentioned. You know the colonel has been my good friend and adviser ever since I was left alone and it is to him that I am indebted that I am not a pauper and compelled to work for a living. He has managed my scanty fortune so carefully.

Jack

Yes Colonel Strong has been a good friend, but I rather think he holds more than a friendly regard for you. In fact, I think he is in love with you.

Bess

Oh Jack---nothing of the kind. He is too much interested in our welfare for anything more than pure friendship. But he spoke of your reckless investments. He intimated that he was afraid you would lose all you possess unless you were more cautious.

Jack

Oh, I think he is giving himself unnecessary worry about me.

Bess

He said that if you should become penniless it might make a difference to our happiness because poverty and happiness could not exist under the same roof---but I assured him that it would make no difference in our case; that we would prove the exception to the rule. Being a poor man and having to work for a living would not change your love for me, would it Jack?

Jack

(both going R) Why of course not.

Lights (gradually down to $\frac{1}{2}$)

Ann

(enter R U stand up C watching them)

Bess

And your love is honest and true?

Jack

Honest and true.

Bess

Cross your heart?

Jack

Cross my heart. (both exit L l laughing)

Ann

(comes down R looking after them) Oh I hope I am mistaken, but something---I don't know what---tells me that he doesn't love her, as he says he does (goes to table lights lamp and sits R of table) But I hope he does, I hope he does (takes book from table to read)

Jack

(enter R U comes down C behind her quickly)

Ann

(discovers him, starts, goes IO Mr. Warring!

Jack

(C) Don't run away Annie Laurie.

Ann

Where is Miss Bessie?

Jack

Out in Ae-ga the garden. I just came in to get a match to light my cigar. You are not afraid of me are you?

Ann

(with effort) No, sir.

Jack

Why of course not. You are only a little bit timid. Annie Laurie I love you. Won't you give me that kiss now?

Ann

I'd be afraid.

Jack

Afraid ---of what?

Ann

(looking straight forward intensely) Its too light in here---somebody might see us.

Jack

Then we will put out the light---isn't that

that a good idea?

Ann

Yes sir (meaningly)

Jack

It will be all the sweeter in the dark, won't it?

Ann

(in same tone) Yes sir.

Jack

I'll put out the light. (starts for table R)

Ann

(runs past him to table) No I'll put it out (start to turn out light, stops) No, I tell you what let's do (kiddishly) Lets play blind man's buff for the kiss.

Jack

(laughs) All right. (takes out handkerchief gives it to her)

Ann

Now, I'll blindfold you and you stand right here. (places him R) and I'll stand over here (goes L) Then you count Three and come.

Jack

Oh I'll come.

Ann

Because you know what isn't worth coming after, isn't worth having.

Jack

A capitol plot---but look out that I don't count three mighty fast.

Ann

Now are you ready?

Jack

All ready!

Jim

(enters L U see them girns, comes down L)

Ann

(puts finger to lips points to Jack, runs up gets Jim by the arms swings him quickly down into settee L motions him to kiss Jack.

(exits Cautiously R U)

Jack

(counts) One, Two, Three---here I come (gropes his way to L with arms extended) Where are you Annie Laurie? No fair dodging. Had lib lines as he feels his way around to L)

(Jim sitting on settee, wipes his mouth preparingg to kiss him (sheks fist at Jack puckers up mouth in vurlesque kiss business (Jack gropes around to settee, feels Jim takes him for Annie (bends forward to kiss Jim makes loud smack as if he had kissed him and at the same time pulls blind fol drom Jack's eyes. (Jack discovers Jim, starts back in surprise and make very quick exit L U. Jim sits on settee waving hat and handkerchief laughs,

CURTAIN

ACT THREE

SCENE SEE SCENE PLOT
LIGHTS FULL UP WHITE
MUSIC ANNIE LAURIE.

Col

(discovered at rise sitting on settee L)

Bess

(discovered at rise sitting at table R)

Bess

I can hardly believe it, Colonel, it sounds like the romance of some novelist.

Col

Truth is stranger than fiction. You see the authorities at the county poor farm seem to be rather a self important lot, and it was difficult to get much satisfaction from the. But we learned enough to fully convince me that Annie Laurie is my niece. . It seems that the only person who really knew of the case was an old lady named Oglesby; but she died about a year ago. The institution has changed hands several times since the child was first taken there, and the record being badly kept, make it difficult to trace the matter back. I have sent my attorney to investigate the matter further and am to meet him this evening and get his full report.

Bess

I sincerely hope that you will be successful in establishing the necessary proof.

Col

Thank you, Miss Bessie. I do not think there is the slightest doubt of our success. And now I must speak to you upon another matter--- something that has long been next to my heart. (rises comes over to her) Bessie---my life is a lonely one. I often long for the sweet communion of a loving companion. I am an old bachelor; and although the fast fleeting years have left their traces of silver in my once fair hair, and the ruthless finger of Time has placed its furrows upon my alabaster brow, my heart has not been seared and scorched by the consuming fires of passion, but beats as firm and as strong as in my callow youth. (takes out handkerchief spreads at feet, kneels) Bessie, I have come to say---I have come to say---as Shakespeare says---

Ann

(enter R U quickly) Miss Bessie!

Col

The devil! (jumps up goes up handkerchief goes L quickly)

Ann

The cook says she is going to leave right away

Col

(jumps in glee) Good! Let her go! Let her go! (they look at him he recovers suddenly embarrassed)

Ann

She says her beau lives so far away from here and can't come to see here often enough.

Bess

I presume she is going to move into his neighborhood.

Ann

Yes'm. She says she wants to see you about her pay.

Bess

Very well. I will go to see her at once, colonel, just make yourself at home until I return. (starts up R)

Col

One moment, Miss Bessie (follows her up R) Cooks are sometimes dangerous when aroused; so I will appoint myself your protector and see that no harm befalls you. As Shakespear says-- "Lead on Macduff" ---and so forth and so forth (exit R U)

Bess

(exits R U followed by Col)

Ann

Oh dear, now the cook will catch it (up R) I wish Miss Bessie would marry the colonel--he is such a good man

Jack

(enters L U in time to hear last words) Who is that that is such a good man---were you speaking of me?

Ann

No sir, I was speaking of Colonel Strong.

Jack

Annie Laurie, why did you play that little joke on me last night?

Ann

You didn't want to kiss me any how. (down R)

Jack

Yes I do and I'm going to have all of those kisses you promised me. (quickly puts his right arms around her, she struggles as he tries to kiss her *)

Ann

No no no (ad lib)

Bess

(enter R U comes C astonished)

Jack

(sees Bess, quickly throws Annie off and she runs down R) Let me go I say---how dare you be so familiar. (goes L a little)

Bess

(C) What is the matter?

Jack

Your servant there has a wild notion that she is in love with me and tries to display her affection upon me every opportunity

Bess

Why Annie Laurie! I am astonished! Are n't you ashamed of yourself. I shall see that you leave here immediately.

Ann

Oh, Miss Bessie, please let me say a word in my own defense. I am not guilty of any wrong. Don't believe that man---please don't! He is deceiving you---lying to you---indeed he is!

Jack

(laughs) Whom do you believe my dear---me or this servant girl?

Bess

(going over takes his arm) Why you of course! (both exit R L)

Ann

(sits L sobbing; recovers quickly looks up with determination; in low firm tones) She believes him. Oh I hate him the coward! She'll make me leave here now; but before I go I'll prove to her what a sneak our Jack is.

Jim

(enter L U quietly hangs hat on hall tree awkwardly carries fiddle and bow under arm) Hello sweetheart Annie Laurie! (grins)

Ann

(turns see him) Hello Jim!

Jim

(crosses to table & lays violin on it during speech) I just slipped off from work to come over to see you a minute. (goes over to her

stands at end of settee) I've just got to see you every day. Why if I don't see you every day it just seems like the days do when the clouds hang way down low and the sun don't shine to make the flowers bloom and the birds sing. Why, Annie Laurie, I love you. I'd do anything for you; I'd lay down my life for you and do it gladly too.

Ann

But what if you were to see me doing something that looked like I was guilty--- could you believe it?

Jim

No, Annie Laurie, I love you honest and true, and when a feller loves a girl that way, he believes everything she says and does is right and proper.---he can't help it (grins)

Ann

And when a woman really and truly loves a man---what then?

Jim

What then? Why, then she believes that everything he tells her is the gospel truth, and she'll forgive him for anything except---except (laughing at her when she steps on a banana peelin' and falls down. (grins) I saw a girl step on a banana peelin' once and fall down and I run and helped her up (Annie nods approval) and when she got her balance on her feet again her hat was all on crooked and it looked so funny I had to laugh--I couldn't help it. (grins) And when I laughed she got red in the face and she got mad and said I was a nasty horrid old thing---there! " and then she sailed away around the corner---but her hat was still on crooked. It looked so funny I had to laugh---I couldn't help it (grins) (rises got to table and gets violin) Say Annie Laurie, I brought my old fiddle over to play you my favorite tune--would you like to hear it.

Ann

Ah ha.

Jim

(coming over to her stands at end of settee) Its a tune of a little song my mother used to sing me to sleep with when I was a little boy and my old father used to play it on this same old fiddle. I love it--- and I can't help it. (plays "Annie Laurie" in a rather awkward way lowers violin and wipes eyes)

Ann

(after a pause) Jim, tell me about your mother and your father, will you?

Jim

Well, Annie Laurie, I had the sweetest mother and the dearest old father but my mother died when I was a little boy and my old father he was blind. I can remember how I used to have to take him by the hand and lead him around; and how he used to stand on the street corner in a big city and play on the same old fiddle, and then he'd hug the old fiddle up close to his breast and hold out his hand like this (hugs violin up to breast and hold out right hand) until somebody would come along and drop in a penny or two and then I'd take him by the hand and lead him on again. And that's the way he wandered around for a long long time. And then one night I woke up and I heard him a playin' that same old sweet-tune, but I went to sleep again and dreamt that it was my angel mother a singin' me to sleep. And then the next mornin' he was a sittin' up in our miserable bed and there was a little ray of sunlight a shinin' on his face and he was a huggin' the old fiddle up close to his breast and he was a holdin' out his hand like that. (same bus as before) and when I spoke to him he never answered me. And then I knew that I was all alone in the world. (pause) Well, I aint never had much chance, and I've had to hustle for myself ever since. And I tell you, when a boy aint got no father or no mother to look after him, there aint nobody

also going to take such interest in him and keep him in the right road. But I've always tried to be upright and honest (pause) Well, Annie Laurie, I reckon I better be goin' now; Major Brown might want me, but I'll come over to see you again this evenin' shall I? (backs up during speech feeling for hat*)

Ann

Yes, come if you like Jim.

Jim

Well I sure do like. (exits)

Ann

(still on settee L) Jim said "When a woman really and truly loves a man she believes everything he tells her is the gospel truth Miss Bessie won't believe me, but she'll believe Jack Warring. She's too good for him and I'm goin' to save her from him if I can.

(rises and starts R L)

Bess

(enters R L)

Ann

Miss Bessie, may I speak to you--just a minute?

Bess

(coldly) Proceed.

Ann

Oh Miss Bessie please don't believe me guilty of what you saw. Please don't.

Bess

I saw quite enough to satisfy me.

Ann

Oh Miss Bessie he is false to you and I can prove it if you will only let me.

Bess

and how could you prove it?

Ann

(eagerly) You are all going to the theatre tonight, if Mr Warring excuses himself and leaves soon after you get there, you make an excuse too and come here as quickly as you can; come in quietly and ---and that is all. Will you?

Bess

You seem terribly earnest.

Ann

Oh Miss Bessie, say you will come, please say you will come.

Bess

(hesitates) Well---Annie Laurie---I---I will come. Something in your pleading bids me listen to you. I will come.

(exits R U)

Ann

She said she would come, and she will keep her word (goes to table lights lamp) and I'll keep mine---I'll keep mine.

Jack

(enter L U) Well here I am with the tickets, hello Annie Laurie. have you quite recovered from your shock?

Ann

Yes sir it turned off nicely.

Jack

Say, Annie Laurie, you're a regular little stunner, aren't you? (closer to her)

Ann

You bet.

Jack

Now see here when do I get that kiss?

Ann

When I tell you can have it.

Jack

Tell me now.

Ann

(looks cautiously about, puts finger to lips comes down C) Come and see me tonight---I'll be right here (coquetishly)

Jack

Tonight?

Ann

Yes. They are all going to the theatre tonight and I'll be here all alone.

Jack

But I have to go to the theatre with them

Ann

(saucily) Oh give them the slip and come back.

Jack

I will. Annie you're a trump.

Ann

And you blow like a trumpet (exit R U) Deal!

Jack

(up R U looks after her) By jove she's an ingenuous little rascal I believe I am half in love with her after all (down R)

Col

(enter L U hangs up hat) Ah Jack being a privileged character here I take the liberty of coming in without formalities.

Bess

(enters R U) Ah Jack, back already? Did you secure some good seats?

Jack

Yes.

Bess

Colonel I am pleased to meet you.

Col

Thank you Miss Bessie, I ran in to tell you that I have just recieved a message from my attorney to meet him within the hour as he has some very important news for me.

Bess

Then you will not be able to go to the theatre with us?

Col

I will not be able to with you, but I will join you there later on will that do?

Bess

Certainly Colonel, and I hope you will bring good news with you.

Ann

(enters R U with telegrams give to Jack) -- telegram for Mr. Warring. (exits R U)

Jack

(opens telgram and reads, drops it suddenly and sinks into chair)

Bess

(goes to him quickly) Why, Jack, what is the matter?

Jack

It's all gone, not a cent left---not a penny!

Bess

Why---what do you mean?

Jack

The infernal wheat! It has swept away my entire fortune---what was left of it. The squabrels kept telling me to buy--buty---it would soon take a big jump and then I could quit. I kept buying and buying until every cent was up and then---crash! (sinks head in hands)

Bess

There there, Jack, don't worry so about it. Colonel Strong will help you if you need it, won't you Colonel?

Col

(down R he shows he un rstand all when Jack gets telegram) Why of course I will (goes over to Jack pats him on shoulder) Of course I will help him. Brace up, my boy, brace up. Its only the same old stroy and it happens every day

Jack

Yes Colonel, you warned me to be cautious and I only laughed at it--- and now I'm down and out financially---a pauper.

Col

(consoling him) There there my boy let it go, let it go. Come, we'll take a little walk and it'll cheer you up.

Jack

No thank you Colonel, I prefer to stay here, besides you know we are to take Bess to the theatre.

Col

Yes, that is so. And I will hurry and see my attorney and join you there as soon as I can. So good bye for the present. (gets hat and exits L U)

Jack

Well, Bess its a pleasant prospect to you isn't it---to marry a pauper.

Bess

(affectionately) Poverty makes no difference where true love rules. It is gone and cannot be helped. You have made a mistake and it will be best to profit by it instead of repeting it. Colonel Strong is your friend and he will help you. Now I must go and get ready as it is al ost time to go. We will take the carriage---so be ready when I call you. (exit R U)

Jack

(remains sitting at table L) So I'm left a pauper. That sounds good. Well, my plans must undergo a change. Bessie is poor---but Annie Laurie will soon be rich; and wealth is the main thing after all. Come to think of it---I have an appointment with Annie Laurie tonight and I must not disappoint her. She will be easily won over, with a little flattery or a few soft words.

Ann

(enter R U) Miss Bessie is ready and waiting. You will take the carriage at the side door. (gets his hat and coat)

Jack

(rises goes up C takes hat and coat from Annie) That's good. (going to L U turns) Annie Laurie, I will be back in a short time--- you will be waiting?

An

Yes sir---I will be waiting.

Jack

Annie Laurie, you are a charming little rascal. Now remember. (exits L U*)

Ann

Oh I will remember! (looks after him) You coward! You think because because I am a poor girl and alone in the world that I will be an easy victim O Oh I will remember your insults, and I will save Miss Bessie from a life long misery by letter hr see you in your true colors! Oh yes---I will remember. (goes to table sits with book)

Col

(enter L U quickly hangs up hat comes down C) Good news Annie Laurie! Good news! Come and hug your uncle! (excitedly grabs her to hug her)

Ann

(struggles away from him) Why, Colonel what is the matter?

Col

Don't call me Colonel---call me uncle, for I am your uncle just as sure as you're a foot high. Yes siree! come right here my dear.

(grabs her by hand and leads her L to settee taking long strides) and let me tell you all about it. (sits on settee with her) First, tell me wasn't your father's name Robert?

Ann

Yes. I can remember hearing my mother call me Bob

Col

Good! And your mother--can you recall her name?

Ann

Yes, it was Louise.

Col

Better still! Hug your uncle Annie Laurie (hugs her, she struggles) You see my dear, my lawyer found ample proof that you are my poor sister's child. It seems that both your parents died about the same time--died in abject poverty--leaving you to the tender mercies of the world. So you see we can easily establish our rights in any court of law. Hurrah! Hug your uncle, Annie Laurie, hug your uncle! (grabs her, she does not resist, rest head on his shoulder)

Ann

(sobbing) Uncle!

Col

(very much delighted changes to seriousness as she sobs (wipes eyes aside this business ad lib) There, there, don't cry about it. Laugh little girl, laugh shout shout for joy! For you have not only found a good old uncle who loves you but you are the richest girl in town as Shakespear says.

Ann

But Uncle aren't you forgetting that you promised to go to the theatre this evening?

Col

(jumping up) Thunderation! So I did. I promised to join them as soon as possible. So goodnight my dear (going up L) Tomorrow I will come and make arrangements for your future. Ah, but I'll make a fine lady of you. Ye siree! So goodnight Annie Laurie. (puts on hat and starts off, turns hold out arms) Annie Laurie come hug your uncle. (she runs into his arms) Good night my dear good night (exit L U)

Ann

Good night Uncle (goes down to table sits) I wonder if its all true? all real? Oh, I'm afraid I'm asleep and I'll wake up and find it all a dream. Now I know why I have always loved Colonel Strong.

Jack

(enter from balcony C quickly cautiously whispers) Annie Laurie! (hangs hat and coat on hall tree L)

Ann

(rises startled) He is here!

Jack

(coming down C) I just saw the colonel in time to dodge around the corner of the house. Lucky for me he didn't see me.

Ann

Did you love the others at the theatre? (Crosses S)

Jack

Yes. I made an excuse pleading important business and would be back in half an hour--so I haven't long to stay (down behind her) What a sly little rogue you are, Annie Laurie, to play this little game. (quickly slips away from him, runs up C L) oh say now, no fooling goes this time, Annie Laurie (going over R.)

Ann

(footsteps heard off L U) I heard a footstep in the hall (listen) Yes she is here. (goes down to settee L sits)

Jack

(crosses over to her) No putting the light out or blindman's buff

goes this time. (sits beside her on R of settee) Annie Laurie, I could love you. (arms around back of settee) Come, let us run away together.

Ann

But Miss Bessie---

Jack

I don't love her. I love you and I want you for my wife. Come, you love me a little don't you?

Ann

(hides face in left arm away from him)

Jack

(puts arm about her) I am going to have all those kisses you owe me. (tries to kiss her, she draws away from him rises he follows her with arm about her shoulder tries to lean over to kiss her, she struggles he trying to kiss her.)

Jim

(enters L U grinning discovers them becomes serious astonished, drops hat up C stands looking at them)

Ann

(as she struggles she looks up C sees Jim) Jim! I forgot he was coming (breaking away from Jack she turns and sinks on knees in front of settee with face buried in arms back to audience)

Jack

(sees Jim released her quickly goes down to R corner) The Gawk! (turns to Jim) What brought you here?

Jim

(standing C calmly) I had a right to come---did you?

Jack

(angrily) Leave here at once, or I'll kick you out.

Jim

No not till I've had it out with you!

Ann

(still on knees hold out left arm pleadingly) Oh Jim! Jim!

Jim

Don't say a word Annie Laurie---don't say a word. I've got you both to deal with, but I'm goin' to settle with that sneakin' hound there first! (comes slowly down C a step or two, intensely to Jack) Say listen! Once when I was a little boy I saw big ugly black snake a creepin' up to where there was a little robin 'OOOOOOOOO a sittin' The blacksnake was a creepin' closer and closer--- the little Robin as a tremblin' and a quiverin' too scared to fly away. Then I took a hand in the game. I sneaked up and grabbed the black snake by the ~~head-the-neck-the-head-the-neck~~ neck (pantomimes business of catching up snake etc) and I squeezed him until his red mouth opened and his poisoned fangs stuck out and he twisted his black slimy body around my arm then I put his head down on a rock and I crushed it with my heel. (business of holding snake down and crushing head with right heel) But the little robin flew away (straightens up pointing to bird flyin away) Now you're the blacksnake and she's the little robin she 's goin' to have the chance to fly away. (makes a quick rush at Jack catches him by the throat gradually choking him down Jack hangs onto Jim's wrists struggling gasping) (see lithograph)

Ann

(rises, shrinks back during struggle, then runs over lays hand on Jim's arms pleads) Oh Jim. Jim Don't kill him Don't kill him!

Bess

(enters L U quickly stops up C astonished)

Jim

(pauses still holding Jack by throat) (looks at Annie)

Oh you want him do you? You want him? All right! (raises Jack up slams him down at his feet violently) -here he is!

Bess
(comes down L quickly) What does this all mean.

Ann
(turns, sees Bess and quickly kneels at her feet) Oh Miss Bessie! Miss Bessie!

Jim
(with feeling) It means that all the time she's been makin' me believe that I'm the one she loves, and just now I came here and found her in the arms of that sneakin' hound there! (Jack is gradually struggling to his feet)

Bess
Jack---what have you to say to this?

Jack
(on his feet hand to his throat turns away does not answer)

Jim
(after slight pause) I'll make him talk! (starts for him)

Bess
Stop! (Jim stops, holds position, Jack go---go and never let me see or hear of you again! (down L points to L U)

Jack
(starts up C)

Jim
(runs up C with arms outstretched barring the way, No! I aint done with him yet.

Ann
(she is still on knees turns to Jim pleadingly) Please let him go, Jim!

Jim
(looks down at her pauses) Oh you want him to go, do you? You do? (slowly lowers arms retreats up C waves toward L U) All right---he can go.

Jack
(with head hung, goes up to hall tree, gets hat and coat and without looking around exits L U others all hold position until he is gone then Jim turns up C stands with back to audience)(Annie is still kneeling and sobbing)

Bess
(starts to cross up to R U)

Ann
(as Bess passes behind her she catches her left hand, pleads) Oh Miss Bessie, don't believe me guilty. I did all this for your sake. I did it because I love you and couldn't stand to see him deceive you

Bess
(holds position looking down at her disdainfully) You shameless girl! Do not try to palliate your disgraceful conduct! We took you in, gave you a home---tried to show you every kindness---and this the way you repay us. Tomorrow morning I shall see that you leave this house. (throws her off and exits R U quickly)

Ann
(sinks C sobbing)

Jim
(turns, comes slowly down C L of Annie) Well, Annie Laurie I reckon this makes it all over between us now. (plaintively)

Ann
(sobbing) Oh Jim! Jim!

Jim
How could you do it, Annie Laurie---how could you do it? How could you treat me like this? Here I've been a dreamin' about you night and

day---a worshipin' you like an idol. Why there aint been a minute that I haven't had you up in my heart a lovin' the very ground you walked on. I've been the happest feller in the world! If you'd a taken a knife and stabbed me to the heart, I could a stood it---but this--(turns L)

Ann

(catches him by R hand clinging to him pleadingly) Oh Jim, Jim don't believe it. Didn't I see enough to convince myself? Didn't I?

Ann

(clinging to him) No No Jim, don't believe i, don't believe it! I did it all for Miss Bessie's sake. I asked him to come here to night, and I made her promise to come too, so she'd catch him making love to me---but I didn't count on all this. Oh Jim, I love you honest and true---believe me Jim---believe me.

Jim

I wish I could believe you, Annie Laurie, but I can't do it, I can't do it. I can see now why you always begged me not to hurt him when he insulted you--me and laughed at me! And just now didn't you beg me not to kill him---didn't you?

Ann

(still on knees pleadingly clings to him again) Oh no no no Jim! Jim! Believe in me---believe in me!

Jim

(throws her off violently) No! (turns goes up L & turns to her) Go and follow him (points off L U) Maybe he's a waitin' for you now! (goes to door L U turns) Good-bye Annie Laurie. (exits L U.) (slowly looking straight ahead; his footsteps are heard dying away)
MUSIC "ANNIE LAUREE" until end of act.

Ann

(remains in same position C sobbing then looks up tearfully) Oh tried to do what was right but I've lost all! I've lost all! (sinks head in arms, half falls to floor, sobbing)

CURTAIN.

SCENE : SEE SCENE PLOT

MUSIC: ANNIE LAURIE UNTIL CURTAIN IS UP

LIGHTS: FULL UP WHITE AT RISE SAME ALL REHEOUGH.

Col

(discovered sitting R on settee with arms around Bess) My dear, Bessie, are you happy?

Bessie

(discovered sitting on settee R with colonel) Perfectly happy, Colonel.

Col

What's that?

Bess

I mean--Sylvester.

Col

That is better. Ah my dear, love is a wonderful thing. tis the poets theme and the painter's dream. As shakespeare says " How silver sweet sounds lover's tongues by night; like softest music to attending ears"

Bess

Yes. But I wish Annie Laurie could be happy. I believe she is still grieving over her girlish love for Jim. Although five years have past and she has grown into a refined, educated young lady that affair still weighs on her mind. Poor girl, she did not think what a foolish thing she was doing--she thought only of her love for me.

Col

Yes, and my dear I have a surprise for you both

Bess

A surprise?

Col

Yes, I have a surprise for you both in the way of long lost long legged, Jim Jones.

Bess

(insurprise) Jim Jones? Why he disappeared several years ago--- has he returned?

Col

Yes, and say you just wait until you see him! Of course you have been reading about that great violinist Signor Jonetti!

Bess

Yes, the papers have been full of him.

Col

Well, Signor Jonetti is none other than our old friend Jim Jones the gawk.

Bess

Can it be possible! And you say he is here!

Col

Yes, and I have an idea he will be nosing around here pretty shortly to see Annie Laurie.

Bess

Is he still poor?

Col

Poor as the proverbial mouse that resided in the church.

Bess

And do you still encourage their attachment?

Col

Yes. He is poor tis true, but he is honest, manly and fearless and those are the essential qualities. If his being poor makes no difference to her, it will not to me. Her happiness is the main

thing, for she has had enough sorrow in her young life and now she is entitled to all the happiness she can get.

Bess

You are right Colonel. I once blamed her for what, in my haste and anger, I believe her guilty, but she eagerly forgave me, and has made me love her dearly.

Col

Now I want to surprise her so you ~~headn't~~ go and blab it to her that her lover has come back.

Bess

Why, don't you think that we women can keep a secret?

Col

Well now as Shakespeare said---

Annie

(enter R U) Miss Bessie!

Col

(jumps up goes L) Now what's the matter with the cook?

Ann

(laughing comes down C) nothing---this time.

Col

(extends arms) Then come hug your uncle!

Ann

(runs to his arms) Uncle! (buries her face in his breast) (sobbing)

Col

I'll bet you've been thinking about that Jim Jones again? Now you just quit your worrying about him and maybe he'll come back some day. (looks at watch) Now I must be going down town and when I come back I am going to bring you a nice present---a nice sweet present. Bet you can't guess what'll be?

Ann

A box of chocolates?

Col

(laughs) A box of chocolates---ha ha ha a box of chooclates. (exits L U)

Ann

(turns to Bess) What did Uncle mean?

Bess

Oh perhaps only some of his joking. "Ow my dear, come here and sit by me and let us talk. (Annie sits beside her) You remember a long time ago you promised to tell me all about yourself?"

Ann

Yes.

Bess

Now tell me your story, won't you? (Annie nods) Do you remember your parents?

Musi Annie Laurie

Ann

Yes, I can remember when I was a little girl, how unhappy we were and how poor we used to be. Sometimes we wouldn't have enough to eat. But my poor father was too proud to let any one know it. And then he used to drink so, it broke my mother's heart. And then one cold night he came home and there was a horrible gash across his forehead and the blood was streaming down over his face, and he fell on the floor. When my mother bent over him she gave a scream and said "He is dead, dead!"

Bess

Poor child!

Annie

Then some men came and took him away and buried him in the potters field. (pause) My mother never recovered from the shock---she never was

very strong---and she grew weaker and weaker, and one night she was sitting in the rocker and holding me in her arms and I went to sleep. When I woke up, it was morning and her arms were still tightly clasped about me, but she was so cold and still, and her eyes were wide open and they stared so it frightened me. I tried to awaken her---but I couldn't. (pause) Then the same men came and took her away and laid her beside my father. And then they took me to the poor farm and--- that's all- (sobs)

Bess

Your life has indeed been a sad one, but that is all past and gone now and you shall be happy from now on.

Ann

But how can I be happy as long as Jim believes me guilty and never come back?

Col

(enter L U quietly Bess sees him he motions her to come crosses over to R U motions her to follow motions toward L U pantomimes that Jim is out there etc)

Bess

(rises and goes around behind Annie nods to Col) Though the wide world be between you (leaning over Annie) if he lives and loves you, he will come back to you. (goes up to Col they exit L U)

Annie

(sits in same position looking straight forward) Though the wide world be between us, if he lives and loves me, he will come back to me! " If he lives! If he lives!

Jim

(enter L U quietly with violin see her stop up C and plays strain of Annie Laurie)

Annie

(when she hears the violin she knows who it is, does not look around until he stops then she quickly rises and runs into his arms) Jim!

Jim

(embracing her) Annie Laurie!

Col and Bess

(both enter R U laughing)

Col

(comes down C Jim goes down L) This is your box of chocolates--- (draws it out) A nice big long-legged box of chocolates! How do you like it?

Ann

(runs to him) You are the best dearest uncle in the world!

Col

I told you he would come back someday, didn't I? As Shakespear says--- come hug your uncle (she runs to his embrace)

Bess

(down to Jim gives him her hand) Jim allow me to welcome you.

Jim

Thank you, Miss Bessie.

Col

What's that?

Jim

(confused) I--I mean---Mrs Colonel Strong.

Col

That is better.

Bess

Your coming has brought us gladness, and we welcome you. (goes to "sits in settee) And now won't you give us an account of yourself? an of your success?

Col

(sits beside her on settee) Yes, J

Yes, Jimmy, tell us about some of your adventures.

Jim

(places Annie in seat L sits beside her) I am proud to tell you that I have been successful. But I am proudest of all to tell you that I owe it all to Colonel Strong. (Col motions him to shut up sheks fist at him etc) He has been my great friend and benefactor. One day, five years ago, when I was up in Major Brown's barn loft playing on my beloved old violin the colonel in passing heard me and he immediately made arrangements for what had always been my ambition-- a music education. He secretly sent me abroad where I studied under noted teachers. So it is to Colonel Strong that I am indebted, that I am not still Jim Jones the gawk, and laughing stock of the village.

Ann

Why UNCLE! (Col figists shakes fist at Jim)

Bess

Why Colonel.

Col

What's that?

Bess

(confused) -I mean---Sylvester.

Col

That is better. (Jim and Annie sitting on settee R) (Col points to thm, speaking to Bess) As Shakespeare says--- "Shot in the ear with a love song" (puts arms around her)

Ann

rises goes up C looks around, goes down behind Bess beckons her to come Bess rises goes up to her, Annie pantomimes her to go Bess nods smiles, and goes up R stands) Annie goes down to Col picks at his coat sleeve, he looks around and pretends does not understand. She points off R he lok that way blankly does not understand, tis bus ad lib she gets impateent) (stamps foot) Oh can't you understand?

Col

(suddenly catches on, smiles broadly rises nods) OH I see! Ahem! (goes over to Jim, looks at him he rises figits Col pokes him in ribs, winks, jerks thumb over toward Annie Jim nods Annie stands over R. Col goes up C. turns looks at them, Motions Bess to go she exits R U Col jerks thumb starts to exit, but turns jus as Jim starts for Annie. Jim goes back to corner, L. This bus repeated, finally Jim motions Col to get out Col scratches head, cannot understand. Jim points to R U. Col looks that way and shakes head, puzzled, comes down to Jim whispers in his ear, ~~kakobkakobkakobkakob~~ Jim Col smiles, understands. Wheels about face makes militayr exit up C and off R U with hands over coat tails this exit can be made to the tune of Dixie with great effect)

Ann

(looks at Jim) Jim, do you want the little robin to fly away?

Jim

(over to her as she runs into his arms C) No! I'm going to hold her so she can't fly away. Because I ~~levehk-~~ love her and I can't help it!

CURTAIN